



Vendor Update

A Publication of the Maryland WIC Program
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Family Health Administration
Winter 2004

WIC Authorized Foods List

The new Maryland WIC Authorized Foods List was shipped to all stores in November. **Please remember that until March 1, 2004 both food lists are to be honored.** This will allow time to acquaint all WIC Participants with the new list. If you would like to have copies available at your Customer Service Counters, please feel free to request additional copies. Please also ensure that copies are kept at each cash register along with the Cashier Ready Reference Guides which were also provided to all stores. If you have any questions, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258.



Annual Vendor Training

Annual Vendor Training wrapped up in November and was a complete success! Thanks to all of the WIC vendors that were represented.



A make up date will be announced for those stores that did not attend previous sessions. Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR) 10.54.03.15B(1)(i) requires a vendor to accept training from the WIC Program as required by the Program. **In accordance with COMAR, a vendor failing to attend Annual Vendor Training may lose WIC authorization for 1 year.** Please contact Frances McRae-Washington at 410-767-5433 or 800-242-4WIC to confirm your attendance.

Training Video

The new Cashier Training Video – entitled “The WIC Transaction” has been sent to all stores.



Spanish and Korean language versions of the video are available upon request. Additionally, the video is also available on DVD upon request. Please contact Frances McRae-Washington at 410-767-5433 if you would like DVD or Spanish/Korean copies of the video.

Infant Formula and Infant Juice

We have had a number of participants denied the purchase of some infant formulas because their checks did not read **“with Iron.”**



Please be advised that in instances where space on the check does not permit the additional text, we opt to indicate the product name only. Additionally, none of the formulas in question are sold or labeled “without Iron.” Lastly, the new WIC Authorized Foods List lists under Infant Juice, **NOT ALLOWED** Juice/Yogurt blends. To clarify, Gerber infant juice in mixed fruit flavors **is allowed**. Yogurt blends are not. If you have any questions, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258.



Regulation Changes

Changes to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) pertaining to WIC vendors are currently in draft stage. Some COMAR changes affecting vendors are:



- Addition of new food items currently reflected on the WIC Authorized Foods List.
- Requirement to carry Lipil variety formulas in addition to the currently required minimum stock formulas.

The changes are expected to be effective in **Spring 2004**. If you have any questions or would like a draft, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258.

New Product Alert

The newly introduced Special K® with Vanilla and Almond is **not** WIC authorized (in addition to Special K with Berries). Please remember to refer to your WIC Authorized Foods List. If you have any questions, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258.



Maryland WIC Vendor Online

The Maryland WIC Program Vendor Unit is now accessible on the World Wide Web! You can now download frequently requested forms, access the WIC Authorized Foods List, and contact WIC staff by email. Visit us at <http://www.fha.state.md.us/wic/html/vendor.html> We hope you find this feature useful!

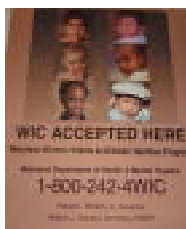
WIC Vendor Stamps

Need a new stamp? Stamps may be ordered from the Maryland Rubber Stamp Company at 410-342-9100. Ask for Brenda or Barbara. **Additionally, please take care to clean your stamps when needed and refill the ink chamber so that your WIC vendor number is legible.** If you have any questions, please contact JoAnn McGowen at 410-767-5251.



WIC Vendor Window Signs

All vendors should have the new WIC Vendor Window Sign displayed in their stores. **The old WIC Vendor sign is no longer acceptable.** Please remember that your Vendor Agreement and **State Regulations require you**



to post the sign in a conspicuous place in your store. If you need signs, please contact JoAnn McGowen at 410-767-5251.

Store Receipts

WIC regulations require vendors to provide a receipt indicating the name of the store, date, and dollar amount of the purchase be provided at the time of purchase. The receipt should also indicate that the purchase was a WIC one. Violation of this provision will result in (1) Written warning following each violation; (2) Suspension of authorization for 1 year for five violations of the same provisions within a 2-year period; (3) Suspension of authorization for 1 year for a combination of 15 violations within a 2-year period



Moving or Selling Your Store?

If you are moving or selling your store please notify the Maryland WIC Program at least 15 days in advance.

Selling your store does not transfer your WIC authorization! The new owner must apply to the Maryland WIC Program for authorization. You are also required to return your WIC vendor stamps to the Maryland WIC Program. If you have questions, or plan to sell or relocate your store, please contact JoAnn McGowen at 410-767-5251.



Vendor Feedback

We want to make your participation in the WIC Program a rewarding experience. **WE NEED YOU!** Your input is valued and strongly encouraged. If you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258.



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